

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11
MCT-01 SY-05 OPR-02 A-01 AID-05 OC-06 CCO-00
SCS-06 CA-01 ACDA-12 COME-00 /105 W
-----091080 111835Z /73

P 111819Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY MADRID
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5285
INFO AMCONSUL BORDEAUX
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY LISBON
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
USMISSION USNATO

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BRUSSELS ALSO FOR USEEC

E.O. 11652: N.A.
TAGS: PINS, PINT, SP
SUBJECT: FALL-OUT FROM PAMPLONA VIOLENCE

REF: MADRID 7776

1. SUMMARY: AFTER CONTINUED CLASHES BETWEEN
DEMONSTRATORS AND POLICE IN PAMPLONA JULY 10,
TENSIONS IN THE NAVARRESE CAPITAL REPORTEDLY
ARE SUBSIDING TODAY. PREDICTABLE PROTEST ACTIVITY
IN VIZCAYA AND GUIPUZCOA HAS FOLLOWED THE PAMPLONA
VIOLENCE, AND ONE FURTHER CASUALTY HAS BEEN
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REPORTED. HOW QUICKLY "NORMALCY" CAN NOW BE RESTORED
DEPENDS LARGELY ON THE RESTRAINT MANIFESTED BY THE
POLICE. END SUMMARY.

2. PAMPLONA WAS EXTREMELY TENSE JULY 10, AND THERE
WERE SCATTERED CLASHES BETWEEN PROTESTERS AND POLICE
(SEE BELOW), BUT TENSIONS HAVE SUBSIDED SOMEWHAT

JULY 11, ADCM REPORTS FROM THE NAVARRESE CAPITAL. THE NAVARRESE CIVIL GOVERNOR, WITH WHOM ADCM SPOKE, AGAIN DEPLORED THE INTERVENTION OF THE ARMED POLICE THAT HAD TRIGGERED THE CHAIN OF VIOLENCE (REFTEL) AND INDICATED THAT HE HOPED TO DEMONSTRATE (AND CONTRIBUTE TO) A RETURN TO NORMALCY BY RESUMING THE SAN FERMIN BULLFIGHTS JULY 11.

3. THE YOUTH (GERMAN RODRIGUEZ) WHO WAS SHOT TO DEATH DURING THE JULY 8 DISTURBANCES WAS INTERRED JULY 10. (IT TURNS OUT THAT HE HAD BEEN A MEMBER OF THE BASQUE TERRORIST ETA FACTION THAT MERGED WITH THE ULTRA-LEFT REVOLUTIONARY COMMUNIST LEAGUE (LCR) A FEW YEARS AGO.) SOME 30,000 PEOPLE REPORTEDLY ATTENDED THE FUNERAL MASS AND INTERMENT, AND THEN MARCHED IN PROTEST TO THE DOWNTOWN SPOT WHERE RODRIGUEZ WAS KILLED. SOME SKIRMISHES BETWEEN POLICE AND DEMONSTRATORS WERE REPORTED BEFORE THE MARCH BROKE UP. RADICAL GROUPS REPRESENTED IN THE MARCH MADE THE USUAL DEMANDS FOR THE RESIGNATION OF THE CIVIL GOVERNOR, THE INTERIOR MINISTER, AND EVEN THE ENTIRE SUAREZ GOVT, AND INSISTED ON THE REMOVAL FROM THE BASQUE COUNTRY OF THE "REPRESSIVE" POLICE FORCES.

4. THE BASQUE PROVINCES OF VIZCAYA AND GUIPUZCOA REACTED PREDICTABLY TO THE PAMPLONA EVENTS. WORKERS ASSEMBLIES, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SOME WORK STOPPAGES, AND DOWNTOWN DISTURBANCES PRECIPITATED BY YOUTHFUL RADICALS TOOK PLACE IN THE BILBAO AREA JULY 10 AND CONTINUED JULY 11. AS USUAL, SIMILAR PROTEST ACTIVITY IN AND AROUND SAN SEBASTIAN WAS EVEN MORE INTENSE, WITH KNOTS OF PROTESTERS EVEN BLOCKING HIGHWAYS AND RAILROAD TRACKS. ACCORDING TO JULY 11 AFTERNOON PRESS REPORTS, A 19-YEAR OLD YOUTH (JOSE IGNACIO BARANDIARAN URCOLA) WAS SHOT DEAD THIS MORNING IN SAN SEBASTIAN IN CLASHES WHICH OCCURED WHEN SOME 2000 PEOPLE ATTACKED A POLICE BARRACKS.

5. MEANWHILE, THE GOVT MET JULY 10 IN MADRID TO CONSIDER THE SITUATION, AND THE INTERIOR MINISTRY'S INVESTIGATION OF THE JULY 8 EVENTS CONTINUED. MANY POLITICAL GROUPS AND AN INFLUENTIAL SECTOR OF THE MEDIA ARE DEMANDING A PUBLIC ACCOUNTING OF THE CAUSES OF THE VIOLENCE AND THE HEAD OF WHOEVER ORDERED THE ARMED POLICE INTO THE PAMPLONA BULL RING.

6. THE GOVT REPORTEDLY HAS MOVED TO REDUCE THE VISIBLE PRESENCE OF THE POLICE IN PAMPLONA AND OTHER CONFLICTIVE POPULATION CENTERS TO A MINIMUM. HOW QUICKLY "NORMALCY"

CAN BE RESTORED WILL NOW DEPEND LARGELY ON THE RESTRAINT--
OR LACK OF IT--MANIFESTED BY THE PUBLIC ORDER FORCES.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PROVINCE, POLITICAL SITUATION, CIVIL DISORDERS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 11 jul 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978MADRID07864
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780284-0043
Format: TEL
From: MADRID
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780775/aaaackvc.tel
Line Count: 119
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 93f8ce77-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 MADRID 7776
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2053251
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FALL-OUT FROM PAMPLONA VIOLENCE
TAGS: PINS, PINT, SP
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/93f8ce77-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014